

Figure 1 consists of 15 bar charts, labeled (a) through (o), each representing a different demographic or attitudinal variable. The y-axis for all charts is 'Percentage' ranging from 0 to 100. The x-axis for each chart represents the categories for that variable. The variables and their corresponding percentages are as follows:

- (a) Age:** 18-24 (15%), 25-34 (25%), 35-44 (30%), 45-54 (20%), 55-64 (10%), 65+ (10%).
- (b) Sex:** Male (55%), Female (45%).
- (c) Education:** High school (35%), College (45%), Graduate (20%).
- (d) Income:** Less than \$10,000 (15%), \$10,000-\$19,999 (25%), \$20,000-\$29,999 (30%), \$30,000-\$39,999 (20%), \$40,000-\$49,999 (10%), \$50,000+ (10%).
- (e) Employment:** Full-time (45%), Part-time (35%), Unemployed (20%), Retired (10%).
- (f) Home ownership:** Own (65%), Rent (35%).
- (g) Marital status:** Married (55%), Single (35%), Divorced (10%), Widowed (10%).
- (h) Religion:** Protestant (45%), Catholic (35%), Jewish (10%), Muslim (10%), Other (10%).
- (i) Political affiliation:** Republican (45%), Democrat (35%), Independent (20%), Other (10%).
- (j) Party affiliation:** Republican (45%), Democrat (35%), Independent (20%), Other (10%).
- (k) Party identification:** Republican (45%), Democrat (35%), Independent (20%), Other (10%).
- (l) Party loyalty:** Republican (45%), Democrat (35%), Independent (20%), Other (10%).
- (m) Party support:** Republican (45%), Democrat (35%), Independent (20%), Other (10%).
- (n) Party preference:** Republican (45%), Democrat (35%), Independent (20%), Other (10%).
- (o) Party choice:** Republican (45%), Democrat (35%), Independent (20%), Other (10%).

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

2000 2001 2002 2003

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

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# METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DARKENING BLACK CLOTHING

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## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### 10 Field of the Invention

15 The present invention relates to methods of dying cloth and more particularly pertains to a new method and apparatus for darkening black clothing for darkening faded black clothing and for preventing the fading of black clothing.

### Description of the Prior Art

20 The use of methods of dying cloth is known in the prior art. More specifically, methods of dying cloth heretofore devised and utilized are known to consist basically of familiar, expected and obvious structural configurations, notwithstanding the myriad of designs encompassed by the crowded prior art which have been developed for the fulfillment of countless objectives and  
25 requirements.

Known prior art includes U.S. Patent No. 5,601,689; U.S. Patent No. 5,858,024; U.S. Patent No. 4,427,566; U.S. Patent No.

5,707,534; U.S. Patent No. 3,928,252; and U.S. Patent No. 5,486,228.

While these devices fulfill their respective, particular  
5 objectives and requirements, the aforementioned patents do not  
disclose a new method and apparatus for darkening black clothing.  
The inventive device includes providing a quantity of black dye, a  
quantity of sodium chloride salt, and a quantity of water. The  
black dye, the salt and the water are mixed together to define a  
10 mixture. The mixture in a container for later use in darkening  
clothing.

In these respects, the method and apparatus for darkening  
black clothing according to the present invention substantially  
15 departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art,  
and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the  
purpose of darkening faded black clothing and for preventing the  
fading of black clothing.

## 20 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known  
types of methods of dying cloth now present in the prior art, the  
present invention provides a new method and apparatus for  
25 darkening black clothing construction wherein the same can be  
utilized for darkening faded black clothing and for preventing the  
fading of black clothing.

The general purpose of the present invention, which will be  
30 described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new method  
and apparatus for darkening black clothing apparatus and method  
which has many of the advantages of the methods of dying cloth

mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new method and apparatus for darkening black clothing which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art methods of dying cloth, either alone or in any  
5 combination thereof.

To attain this, the present invention generally comprises a quantity of black dye, a quantity of sodium chloride salt, and a quantity of water. The black dye, the salt and the water are mixed  
10 together to define a mixture. The mixture in a container for later use in darkening clothing.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed  
15 description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following  
25 description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be  
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utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Further, the purpose of the foregoing abstract is to enable the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and practitioners in the art who are not familiar with patent or legal terms or phraseology, to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and essence of the technical disclosure of the application. The abstract is neither intended to define the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor is it intended to be limiting as to the scope of the invention in any way.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new method and apparatus for darkening black clothing apparatus and method which has many of the advantages of the methods of dying cloth mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new method and apparatus for darkening black clothing which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art methods of dying cloth, either alone or in any combination thereof.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a new method and apparatus for darkening black clothing which may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new method and apparatus for darkening black clothing which is of a durable and reliable construction.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new method and apparatus for darkening black clothing which is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both materials and labor, and which accordingly is then susceptible of low prices of sale to the consuming public, thereby making such method and apparatus for darkening black clothing economically available to the buying public.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new method and apparatus for darkening black clothing which provides in the apparatuses and methods of the prior art some of the advantages thereof, while simultaneously overcoming some of the disadvantages normally associated therewith.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a new method and apparatus for darkening black clothing for darkening faded black clothing and for preventing the fading of black clothing.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new method and apparatus for darkening black clothing which includes a quantity of black dye, a quantity of sodium chloride salt, and a quantity of water. The black dye, the salt and the water are mixed together to define a mixture. The mixture in a container for later use in darkening clothing.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new method and apparatus for darkening black clothing that is conveniently used as a substitute for bleach when a person is washing black clothes.

These together with other objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be made to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated preferred embodiments of the invention.

## 10 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawing wherein:

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a new method and apparatus for darkening black clothing according to the present invention.

## 20 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figure 1 thereof, a new method and apparatus for darkening black clothing embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figure 1, the method and apparatus for darkening black clothing 10 generally comprises a mixture 12 for use in preventing the fading, or darkening faded black articles of clothing. The mixture 12 includes black dye, sodium chloride salt

(table salt), and water. Such a dye may be found under the trade name RIT dye produced by Unilever Bestfoods, P O Box 68, London EC4P 4BQ, United Kingdom. The salt used is preferably a processed sea-salt having a 99.9% or greater sodium chloride content to reduce caking of the salt.

The mixture 12 is preferably made by mixing together the black dye, the salt and the water together in a ratio of 40%-50% black dye, 40%-50 % water, and 5%-15% salt by volume to define the mixture. Ideally, the mixture contains 45% dye, 45% water and 10%. Also, it is preferred that the water has a temperature of less than 20 degrees Celsius. The mixture 12 is then placed in a container 14 for later use.

In use, garments 16 which are faded, or are in danger of fading, are placed into a washing machine 18. Approximately 1 1/8 cups of the mixture 12 is poured onto the garments 16 and the garments washed. Ideally, the mixture 12 is placed into the washing machine 18 during the bleaching cycle, which is when the washing machine 18 has filled with water. Many conventional washing machines have a port for depositing bleach into such that the bleach is emptied into the washing machine at the correct time. The user may place the mixture 12 into the port instead of the bleach. The salt helps the clothing to retain the dye.

As to a further discussion of the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.